

Rep. Nygren: Statement on criminal justice reforms

Posted on Thursday, Feb 21, 2019

>> WisPolitics is now on the State Affairs network. Get custom keyword notifications, bill tracking and all WisPolitics content. [Get the app or access via desktop.](#)

Contact: Rep. John Nygren (888) 534-0089

Criminal Justice Reforms

Madison–State Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette), Co-chair of the Joint Committee on Finance released the following statement:

“Monday, I joined Assembly Republican colleagues in Green Bay to announce a package of initiatives aimed at improving our criminal justice system on multiple fronts. Whether it’s our state public defenders, district attorneys, or our counties, we’re committed to making sure they have the resources they need. Of particular note, I am happy the plan calls for making one of the Assistant District Attorney positions in the Marinette DA’s Office permanent.

Funding was provided in the state budget for a part-time Special Prosecutor for Marinette County to help support District Attorney Deshea Morrow. The funding effectively made the current part-time position, full-time for two years.

In reaction, Marinette County District Attorney Deshea Morrow said, “I am extremely pleased with these initiatives and grateful to Rep. Nygren for his continued efforts to improve the criminal justice system. This will enable the Marinette County District Attorney’s Office to have continuity to more effectively serve our citizens and to assist our local law enforcement agencies.”

Monday it was requested that Governor Evers include the following initiatives in his upcoming state budget request:

- Ensure quicker access to a fair trial: fund new Assistant District Attorney (ADA) positions, increase pay for ADAs and State Public Defenders (SPD), increase

private bar rate for county court appointments and SPD appointments.

- Expand Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) programs to help offenders who suffer from alcohol and drug issues.
- Invest in the retention of correctional officers.
- Promote the successful transition back into society through expanded worker training, reentry programs and health initiatives.

“I would like to thank my Assembly Republican colleagues for making this a priority so early into our session. Like many of these issues we have tackled so far, this is a bipartisan issue and I strongly encourage Governor Ever’s to support this.”